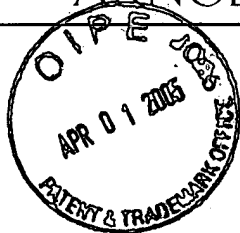


ARNOLD & PORTER LLP



April 1, 2005

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**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Art Unit: 1631  
Examiner: C.D. Ly  
Conf. No.: 3580

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/976,054 filed October 15, 2001  
Inventors: Nordine CHEIKH *et al.*  
Title: Nucleic Acids and Other Molecules Associated with  
the Cytokinin Pathway  
Atty. Dkt: 16517.256

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Response; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any additional fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing docket number 16517.256.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)  
Thomas E. Holsten (Reg. No. 46,098)

Enclosures